

# Booklist Reader

Book and audiobook recommendations for all ages

*Booklist* helps you build your collection. *Booklist Reader* helps readers make their selections.

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Top 10 Mysteries for Youth

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Cover art by Laura Knetzger, from *Bug Boys: Outside and Beyond*



# What is *Booklist Reader*?

*Booklist Reader* is *Booklist*'s new library patron-facing magazine, featuring diverse readers' advisory recommendations, in print and on audio, for readers of all ages.

## Who benefits from *Booklist Reader*?

All library patrons and all readers' advisory specialists, and everyone who loves to read!

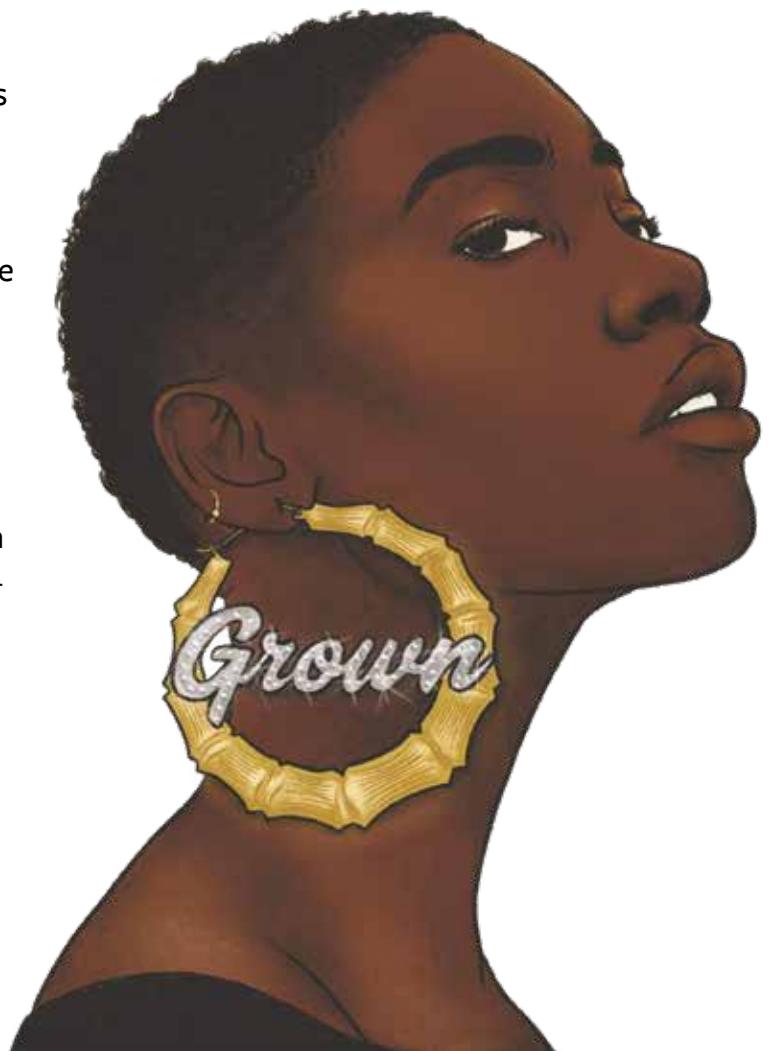
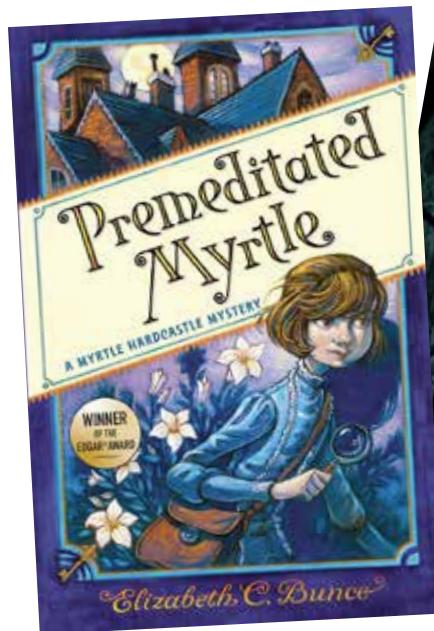
## Where and when can you find *Booklist Reader*?

Starting this September, *Booklist Reader* will be available monthly at [booklistonline.com](http://booklistonline.com).

## Why *Booklist Reader*?

1. *Booklist Reader* is now part of the *Booklist* and *Book Links* subscription: three magazines for the price of one!
2. *Booklist Reader* is patron friendly. Filled with high-interest, themed lists that showcase books patrons can read and check out now, *Booklist Reader* is designed to be a readers' advisory tool and time-saver in one.
3. *Booklist Reader* is sharable: the digital-only format means you can feature articles in newsletters or on your library's home page—and print them to keep by the circ desk, too.
4. *Booklist Reader* is librarian and readers' advisory approved! Every issue includes the LibraryReads roundup of the top 10 books published that month, voted on by library staff across the country.

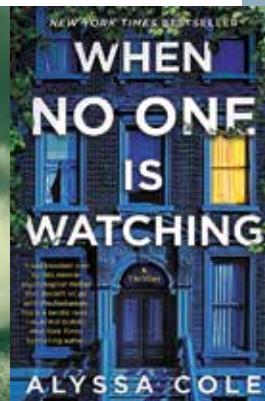
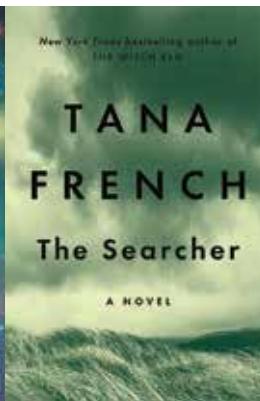
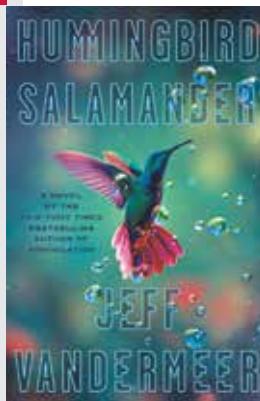
Art from the covers of *Premeditated Myrtle*, by Elizabeth C. Bunce, *Whispering Pines*, by Heidi Lang & Kati Bartkowski, and *Grown*, by Tiffany D. Jackson.



Top 10

## Crime Fiction

Whether it's twisting plots, wracking psychological tension, new versions of noir, or sensitive explorations of contemporary themes, these top crime novels have something for every mystery-loving reader. —*Bill Ott*



**Blacktop Wasteland.** By S. A. Cosby. 2020. Flatiron (9781250252685).

In this superb work of crime fiction, uncompromisingly noir but deeply human, too, Beauregard “Bug” Montage, a Black wheelman turned garage owner, must take one last job to keep his business going.

**Confessions on the 7:45.** By Lisa Unger. 2020. Park Row (9780778310150).

After two women meet on a stalled commuter train and share secrets, one of them finds her seemingly well-ordered life disintegrating bit by bit. Unger provides a master class in plotting in this tense psychological thriller.

**Dead of Winter.** By Stephen Mack Jones. 2021. Soho (9781641291026).

Ex-cop August Snow defends a grocery-store owner from a hostile takeover in the Detroit neighborhood of Mexicantown. A fine thriller in the hard-boiled tradition, but also a sensitive, multifaceted portrait of race in America.

**Hummingbird Salamander.** By Jeff VanderMeer. 2021. Farrar (9780374173548).

VanderMeer delivers a noirish conspiracy thriller with dystopian shadings in this superbly crafted novel about environmental plunder in the Pacific Northwest.

**The Searcher.** By Tana French. 2020. Viking (9780735224650).

The ever-versatile French turns to a variation on country noir in this gripping tale of a retired Chicago cop who buys a fixer-upper in Ireland's West Country and finds deadly turmoil behind the village's bucolic facade.

**The Shadows.** By Alex North. 2020. Macmillan/Celadon (9781250318039).

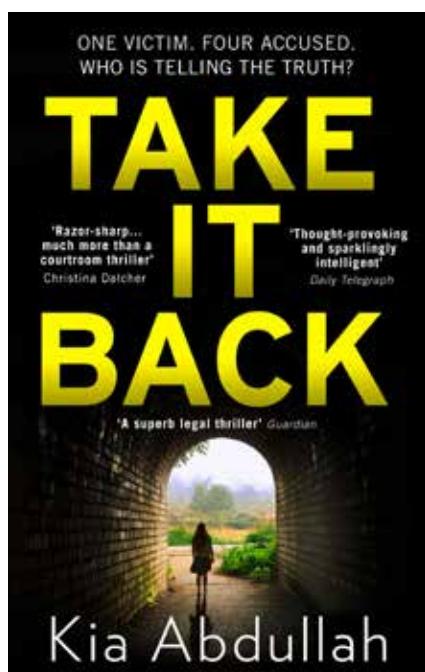
Displaying a dizzying mastery of misdirection, North combines elements of thriller and horror into a spellbinding tale of murder in the small town of Featherbank.

**The Survivors.** By Jane Harper. 2021. Flatiron (9781250232427).

Kieran Elliott returns to his home on the Tasmanian coast and finds himself involved in a murder that rekindles memories of a historic storm that ravaged the town years earlier.

**Take It Back.** By Kia Abdullah. 2020. St. Martin's (9781250273017).

Muslim Zara Kaleel, a sexual-violence adviser in London, is branded a traitor to her people when she takes the case of a 16-year-old white girl who claims to have been raped by four Muslim boys.



**Too Good to Be True.** By Carola Lovering. 2021. St. Martin's (9781250271372).

A failing marriage is the jumping-off point in this firecracker of a novel, which finds readers juggling between multiple points of view and time periods and attempting to make sense of unreliable narrators.

**When No One Is Watching.** By Alyssa Cole. 2020. Morrow (9780062982650).

Expertly layering plot twists, Cole delivers a searing indictment of the inseparable evils of racism and gentrification wrapped in an anxiety-inducing thriller with elements of romance and horror.

# Mysteries for Youth

Murders, kidnappings, missing valuables, and corporate malfeasance are just a few of the crimes at the center of these excellent mysteries and thrillers for kids and teens. —Sarah Hunter

**A Dog-Friendly Town.** By Josephine Cameron. 2020. Farrar (9780374306441). Gr. 4–6.

In this decidedly doggy detective caper, the disappearance of a celebrity St. Bernard's diamond-studded collar serves as the MacGuffin for a tale that is as much about facing changes as it is about "collaring" a crook.

**Firekeeper's Daughter.** By Angeline Boulley. 2021. Holt (9781250766564). Gr. 10–12.

Daunis, half Ojibwe and half French, doesn't easily feel at home in either community, but witnessing a murder at the hands of a prominent member of her tribe leads her to go undercover in an FBI investigation.

**The Girls I've Been.** By Tess Sharpe. 2021. Putnam (9780593353806). Gr. 9–12.

Nora is at the bank with her ex-boyfriend (and current girlfriend) when an out-of-control robbery begins, but her deeply secret past of helping her mom con shady businessmen will help them make it out of the bank alive.

**Grown.** By Tiffany D. Jackson. 2020. HarperCollins/Katherine Tegen (9780062840356). Gr. 8–11.

Enchanted would do anything to sing, so when an opportunity to work, record, and have a romance with the legendary Korey Fields pops up, she leaps at it. But when Korey ends up dead, Enchanted is the primary suspect.

**The Leak.** By Kate Reed Petty. Illus. by Andrea Bell. 2021. First Second (9781250217950). Gr. 4–7.

Ruth, a 13-year-old journalist, is convinced the country club is to blame for an alarming environmental crisis, but soon she finds a bigger story. This graphic novel explores investigative journalism alongside a compelling plot.

**The Montague Twins: The Witch's Hand.** By Nathan Page. Illus. by Drew Shannon. 2020. Knopf (9780525646761). Gr. 8–11.

In this graphic novel series start, it's 1969, and teen detectives Al and Pete are investigating the disappearance of a wealthy teen girl when their clues lead them to a magic box, some witchy ghosts, and a legacy of violence in their town.

**Ophie's Ghosts.** By Justina Ireland. 2021. HarperCollins/Balzer+Bray (9780062915894). Gr. 4–8.

The first time Ophie Harrison saw a ghost was the night her father was murdered by a lynch mob in 1922. Ophie and her mother escape, but the ghosts follow, and one asks the 12-year-old to help her discover how she died.

**Premeditated Myrtle.** By Elizabeth C. Bunce. 2020. Algonquin (9781616209186). Gr. 5–8.

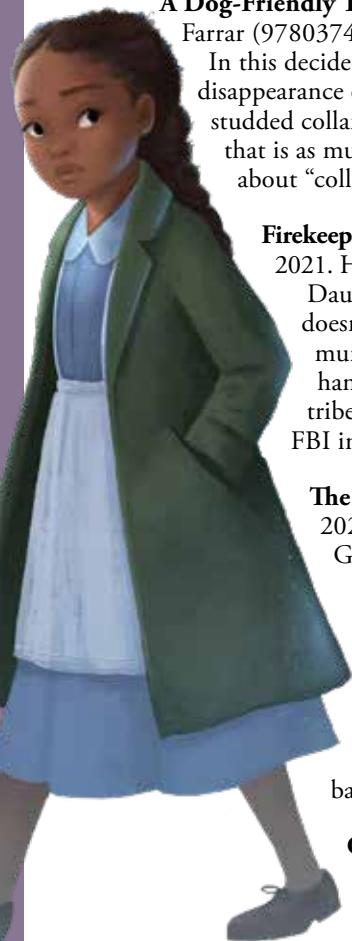
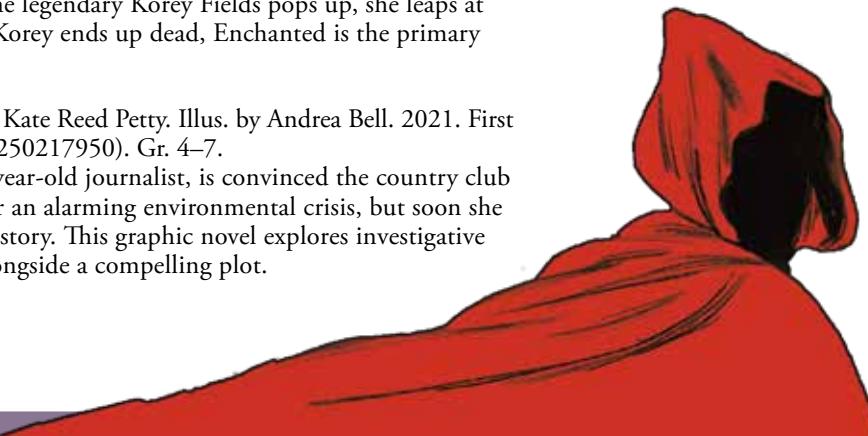
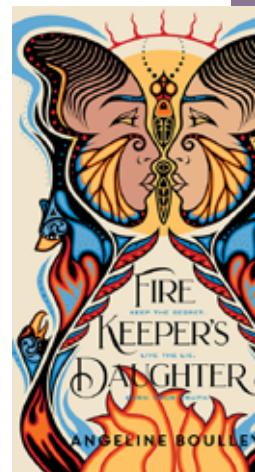
There is something afoot at Redgraves, the house neighboring Myrtle Hardcastle's own. Myrtle is quite sure that something dastardly has occurred, but no one else is calling it murder—yet.

**The Project.** By Courtney Summers. 2021. St. Martin's/Wednesday (9781250105738). Gr. 10–12.

For the past six years, Lo's older sister, Bea, has been swallowed up by the Unity Project, a charitable organization that's more like a cult. Determined Lo dives into a risky investigation of the project and her sister's disappearance in this tense thriller.

**Whispering Pines.** By Heidi Lang and Kati Bartkowski. 2020. Simon & Schuster/Margaret K. McElderry (9781534460478). Gr. 5–8.

After her dad disappears, Rae moves to Whispering Pines with her sister and mom, who have seemingly forgotten about him. That's odd enough, but then she starts noticing strange happenings all over town.



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Art from the cover of *A Dog-Friendly Town*, by Josephine Cameron.

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